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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
First Special Session
August 1992

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

1. It may be recalled that the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990, authorized the "Commission on Human Rights to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a majority of States members of the Commission so agree".

2. On 5 August 1992, the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed a letter to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights requesting the "convening of the Commission on Human Rights in an exceptional session at the earliest possible date, to discuss the dangerous situation in the former Yugoslavia" (see E/CN.4/1992/S-1/2).

3. The members of the Commission were requested to indicate their wishes in regard to this request, with a view to ascertaining whether the majority of the members agreed to the request. At the time of preparation of the present document, the following members of the Commission had indicated that they were in agreement: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Gambia, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela.

4. In view of the majority obtained, the Commission on Human Rights is convened in special session on 10 August 1992.

5. It will be recalled that at its forty-eighth session, the Commission elected the following officers, who will constitute the Bureau for the First Special Session:

Chairman: Mr. Pól Solt (Hungary)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ronald Alfred Walker (Australia)
Mr. Sirous Nasseri (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia)

Rapporteur: Mrs. Ligia Galvis (Colombia)

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Commission will have before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/1992/S-1/1) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda contained in the present document.

Item 2. Organization of work

7. The Commission will recall that at its last nine sessions, members were limited to one statement of 15 minutes or two statements of 10 minutes per item, observers and non-governmental organizations were limited to one statement of 10 minutes per item, while observer States mentioned in a report and liberation movements could make one statement of 15 minutes or two statements of 10 minutes per item. It was also agreed that, with regard to rights of reply, the practice followed by the General Assembly, namely limitation to two replies, the first of 10 minutes and the second of 5 minutes, would again be observed.

8. In view of the existing financial constraints and the consequent reductions thus imposed, the First Special Session must be very carefully planned from the outset, bearing in mind the imperative need to use the resources available to maximum effectiveness. In view of the nature of the present session, the Commission may wish to consider shorter time limits.

Composition of the Commission

9. The composition of the Commission for 1992 is the following. (The term of membership of each State expires on 31 December of the year indicated in brackets.)

Angola (1995), Argentina (1993), Australia (1993), Austria (1993), Bangladesh (1995), Barbados (1995), Brazil (1992), Bulgaria (1995), Burundi (1993), Canada (1995), Chile (1995), China (1993), Colombia (1995), Costa Rica (1995), Cuba (1995), Cyprus (1995), Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (1993), France (1992), Gabon (1995), Gambia (1993), Germany (1993), Ghana (1992), Hungary (1992), India (1995), Indonesia (1993), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1995), Iraq (1992), Italy (1992), Japan (1993), Kenya (1995), Lesotho (1995),

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (1995), Madagascar (1992), Mauritania (1993), Mexico (1992), Netherlands (1995), Nigeria (1995), Pakistan (1992), Peru (1993), Philippines (1992), Portugal (1993), Russian Federation (1995), Senegal (1992), Somalia (1992), Sri Lanka (1995) Syrian Arab Republic (1995), Tunisia (1995), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1995), United States of America (1992), Uruguay (1995), Venezuela (1993), Yugoslavia (1992) and Zambia (1993).

Item 3. Letter dated 5 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

10. The letter of the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva, on the basis of which the present session is convened, is circulated in document E/CN.4/1992/S-1/2.

Item 4. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the First Special Session

11. Rule 37 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall submit to the Council a report, which shall normally not exceed 32 pages, on the work of each session containing a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. It shall, as far as practicable, frame its recommendations and resolutions in the form of drafts for approval by the Council.